THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Government have formally asked the Government of Pakistan for the return to India of the hijackers who hijacked an Indian Airlines Airbus to Lahore on July 5, 1984.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) India and Pakistan are parties to these three Conventions and Pakistan has an obligation either to extradite or punish the offenders.

(d) A formal reply from the Pakistan Government to India's request for the return of the hijackers is still awaited. However, the Pakistan President is reported to have told Indian journalists on July 9 that, as there is no extradition treaty between the two countries, the hijackers could not be sent back to India.

Salem Steel Plant

*178. SHRI T. THANGABALU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position regarding commissioning of the Salem Steel Plant;

(b) by when it is likely to be commissioned as a full-fledged integrated steel plant;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in completing the project;

(d) what are the details of the original schedule and project estimate and the cost escalation, present programme and estimates; and

(e) what is the amount to be allocated during the Seventh Five Year Plan for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) The first phase of the project comprising a cold rolling mill complex as approved by Government in May, 1977 was completed and the commissioning of the various units commenced on schedule in phases on September 13, 1981.

(b) Though the rated capacity of the present plant is 32,000 tonnes/year cold rolled and finished stainless steel sheets and strips, the off-take in 1983-84 was only 7,928 tonnes and demand is still sluggish leading to heavy losses.

(c) The second phase which envisages expansion to 2,20,000 tonnes/year of cold rolled stainless steel; hot rolled stainless steel; cold rolled electrical steel; hot rolled special steels and hot rolled mild steel will be undertaken as soon as production from the existing cold rolling mill complex has been stabilised, the market for its production has improved and the viability of its expansion (including the technology that is most cost effective) as well as its time phasing satisfactorily established.

(d) The driginal schedule was 54 months from the date of Government approval: Government approval was accorded on May 25, 1977 and the plant was completed in September, 1981 on schedule. The cost of the project as approved by Government was Rs. 126.81 crores based on 1974 prices suitably adjusted for exchange rate and cost escalations upto March, 1976. The final cost that was incurred was Rs. 181.2 crores and this was approved by Government in November, 1982.

(e) The Seventh Five Year Plan is being formulated and so it is not possible to indicate what provision will be made for the second phase of the Salem Steel Plant

Resumption of talks to solve the Mizo problem

*179. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Laldenga, President of the outlawed Mizo National Front has accepted the Prime Minister's offer for resumption of talks to solve the Mizo Problem; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Government have just received a message to this effect. Further details are awaited.

Extradition on hijackers of Indian Airlines Airbus

†††*180. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the extradition of nine hijackers of the Indian Airlines airbus (July 1984) from Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that five hijackers of Indian airlines airbus hijacked in September, 1981 are still in Pakistan and they have not been handed over to India; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the steps taken during this period to get them extradited to India?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Government has formally asked the Government of Pakistan for the return of hijackers who hijacked an Indian Airlines Airbus to Lahore on July 5, 1984. While a formal reply from the Pakistan Government is still awaited, the Pakistan President is reported to have told Indian journalists on July 9 that, as there was no extradition treaty between the two countries the hijackers could not be sent back to India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since September 30, 1981, Government has on different occasions, both verbally and in writing, asked the Pakistan Government to either return the apprehended hijackers or atleast put them on trial in Pakistan. President Zia had given an assurance that the hijackers would be returned to India after their interrogation was completed but subsequently Pakistan Government stated that the hijackers would be tried in Pakistan. However, these hijackers have neither been returned to India nor tried in Pakistan so far. Government is pursuing the matter with the Govt. of Pakistan.

Assessment of World Economic Summits

*1065. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what is Government's assessment in regard to the two World Economic Summits—one by the top seven of the capitalist countries at London and the other by the top socialist countries at Moscow, held during the month of June this year and their impact on the Third World countries, particularly India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): The seven highly industrialised countries and the states members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance both held summit meetings, the first in London and the second in Moscow, in June, 1984. These summits were devoted primarily to economic issues although some political issues were also discussed.

The London Summit issued five documents-the London Economic Declaration, the Declaration on Democratic Values, Declaration on East-West Relations and Arms Control, Declaration on International Terrorism and a Statement on the Iran-Iraq conflict. In the Economic Declaration the participating countries dealt with their own problems as well as relations with developing countries. In regard to the latter they higlighted issues such as the debt problem, financial flows to developing

†††Previously starred question No. 100, transferred from the 27th July, 1984.